

2013 Professional Development Grant Report

National Communication Association Convention Presentation

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## **B. Restatement of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity**

In November 2013, I attended the National Communication Association Convention in Washington, D. C. The NCA convention is a national conference. The Association's website is as follows:

<http://www.natcom.org/>

## **C. Brief Review of Creative Work / Professional Enhancement Activity**

I presented as part of the Theatre, Film, and New Media Division. My panel was entitled, "Connecting and Collaborating: The Creative Student-Faculty Relationship." My contribution was to share the work of the Arkansas Radio Theatre, which I run at Tech. Specifically, I talked about the action/adventure series, *Concealed Carrie: Diamond State Crime Fighter*, and how its serial nature can be used to model Hollywood studio-style writing.

In addition to my own panel, I attended several others which explored topics like classical rhetoric and introduced me to a number of performers on the cutting edge of solo performance and disability studies.

## **D. Summary of Outcomes / Experiences**

My paper was a necessary contribution to my panel. Specifically, I addressed the need for boundaries during student mentoring. I stressed that---not only do we, as teachers, facilitate learning---but we also model how to lead healthy, productive, creative lives. Such lives cannot be led without clear professional/personal, work/art, teacher/student boundaries.

My exploration of the *Concealed Carrie* series was pivotal to my teaching here at Arkansas Tech. I designed the series to facilitate Hollywood style writing---in other words, to have students generate scripts for an ongoing series while working under the direction of an executive producer. I realized from this study, though, that this kind of writing really needs to take place in a more formal setting.

## **E. Conclusions and Recommendations**

My findings from the discussions in the panel have heavily influenced my design for a senior level topics course in Radio Theatre Writing, that I am teaching in Fall 2014. Specifically, the panel influenced an assignment called *Concealed Carrie* scenario writing, wherein students generate short scenarios for which they may choose to write scripts in the future.

I will use material from my presentation and from my course for publication. I am a regular blogger for Bedford-St. Martin's *LitBits* blog; that forum will be interested in the pedagogical insight that I have gained. Furthermore, my attendance at the conference keeps me up-to-date in my teaching and in my production work for the ATU Theatre Program.

I am extremely grateful for the Professional Development Grant.

Copies to: Prof. Anthony Caton, Department Head, Communication & Journalism  
Dr. Jeffrey Woods, Dean, Arts and Humanities  
Dr. John Watson, Vice President, Academic Affairs

## **F. Appendix**

Copies of my paper are available upon request.